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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Pascaline BOUM (Cameroon)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 50/53 of 11 December 1995.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 10th, 11th, 30th and 50th meetings, on 3 and 4 October and 1 and 29 November 1996. The summary records of those meetings contain the views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item (A/C.6/51/SR.10, 11, 30 and 50).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/51/336 and Add.1);

(b) Letters dated 26 February and 4 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/70-S/1996/135 and A/51/74-S/1996/163);

(c) Letter dated 21 March 1996 from the representatives of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of

America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/84-S/1996/211);

(d) Letter dated 20 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Trujillo Act and the Protocol Amending the Cartagena Agreement, signed at Trujillo, Peru, on 10 March 1996 by the Heads of State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, the Personal Representative of the President of Venezuela and the President of Panama as an observer (A/51/87);

(e) Letter dated 5 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final document of the Summit meeting of the group of seven major industrialized countries, held at Lyon, France, from 27 to 29 June 1996 (A/51/208-S/1996/543);

(f) Letter dated 28 May 1996 from the Charge d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the results of the 95th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Istanbul from 12 to 20 April 1996 (A/51/210);

(g) Letter dated 16 July 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final communiqué issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration States at the conclusion of their thirteenth meeting, held at Muscat, Oman, on 13 and 14 July 1996 (A/51/216-S/1996/563);

(h) Letter dated 1 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the official document adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996 (A/51/261);

(i) Letter dated 12 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/284);

(j) Letter dated 17 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/374);

(k) Letter dated 17 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a press release issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its sixtieth session, held at Riyadh on 7 and 8 September 1996 (A/51/387-S/1996/767);

(l) Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 25 September 1996 (A/51/473-S/1996/839);

(m) Letter dated 5 November 1996 from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations

addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Tashkent Declaration, adopted on 21 October 1996 at the fourth summit meeting of the Heads of State of the Turkish-speaking countries (A/51/664-S/1996/930);

(n) Letter dated 9 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.6/51/3);

(o) Note verbale dated 8 November 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.6/51/5);

(p) Letter dated 1 November 1996 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of a draft international convention on the suppression of terrorism prepared by the Government of India (A/C.6/51/6);

(q) Note verbale dated 11 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Baguio Communiqué, issued by the International Conference on Counter-Terrorism, held at Baguio City, the Philippines, from 18 to 21 February 1996 (A/C.6/51/9).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.6/51/L.15 AND REV.1

5. On 22 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution, submitted on the basis of informal consultations, entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" (A/C.6/51/L.15), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, by which it adopted the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, and its resolution 50/53 of 11 December 1995,

"Recalling also the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[1]

"Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Deeply disturbed by the persistence of terrorist acts, which have taken place worldwide,

"Stressing the need further to strengthen international cooperation between States and between international organizations and agencies, regional organizations and arrangements and the United Nations in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed,

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[1] Resolution 50/6.

"Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies in combating international terrorism,

"Noting in this context all regional and international efforts to combat international terrorism, including those of the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the countries of the Group of Seven and the Russian Federation,

"Noting also the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on educational activities under the project 'Towards a culture of peace',[2]

"Recalling that in the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism the General Assembly encouraged States to review urgently the scope of the existing international legal provisions on the prevention, repression and elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with the aim of ensuring that there was a comprehensive legal framework covering all aspects of the matter,

"Bearing in mind the possibility of considering in the future the elaboration of a global international convention,

"Noting that terrorist attacks by means of bombs, explosives or other incendiary or lethal devices have become increasingly widespread, and recognizing the need to supplement the existing legal instruments in order to address specifically the problem of terrorist attacks carried out by such means,

"Stressing the need to enhance international cooperation to prevent the use of nuclear materials for terrorist purposes and to develop an appropriate legal instrument,

"Stressing also the need to strengthen international cooperation to prevent the use of chemical and biological materials for terrorist purposes,

"Convinced of the need to implement effectively and supplement the provisions of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism,

"Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

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[2] A/51/395, annex.

[3] A/51/336 and Add.1.

I

"1. "Strongly condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed;

"2. Reiterates that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them;

"3. Calls upon all States to adopt further measures in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and international standards of human rights to prevent terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism and, to that end, to consider the adoption of measures such as those contained in the official document of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism of the Countries of the Group of Seven and the Russian Federation held in Paris on 30 July 1996[4] and the plan of action adopted by the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism held at Lima from 23 to 26 April 1996 in the framework of the Organization of American States,[5] and, in particular, calls upon all States to:

"(a) Recommend that relevant security officials undertake consultations to improve the capability of Governments to prevent, investigate and respond to terrorist attacks on public facilities, in particular means of public transport, and to cooperate with other Governments in this respect;

"(b) Accelerate research and development regarding methods of detection of explosives and other harmful substances that can cause death or injury, and undertake consultations on the development of standards for marking explosives in order to identify their origin in post-blast investigations, and promote cooperation, transfer of technology, equipment and related materials, where appropriate;

"(c) Note the risk of terrorists using electronic or wire communications systems and networks to carry out criminal acts and the need to find means, consistent with national law, to prevent such criminality and to promote cooperation where appropriate;

"(d) Investigate, when sufficient justification exists according to national laws, and acting within their jurisdiction and through appropriate channels of international cooperation, the abuse of organizations, groups or associations, including those with charitable, social or cultural goals, by terrorists using them as a cover for their own activities;

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[4] A/51/261, annex.

[5] A/51/336, para. 57.

"(e) Develop if necessary, especially by entering into bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements, mutual legal assistance procedures aimed at facilitating and speeding investigations and collecting evidence, as well as cooperation between law enforcement agencies in order to detect and prevent terrorist acts;

"(f) Take steps to prevent and counteract, through appropriate domestic measures, the financing of terrorists and terrorist organizations, whether such financing is direct or indirect through organizations which also have or claim to have charitable, social or cultural goals, or which are also engaged in unlawful activities such as illicit arms trafficking, drug dealing and racketeering, including the exploitation of persons for purposes of funding terrorist activities, and in particular to consider, where appropriate, adopting regulatory measures to prevent and counteract movements of funds suspected to be intended for terrorist purposes without impeding in any way the freedom of legitimate capital movements and to intensify the exchange of information concerning international movements of such funds;

"4. Also calls upon all States, with the aim of enhancing the efficient implementation of relevant legal instruments, to intensify, as and where appropriate, the exchange of information on facts related to terrorism and, in doing so, to avoid the dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information;

"5. Reiterates its call upon States to refrain from financing, encouraging, training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities;

"6. Urges all States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963,[6] the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970,[7] the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, concluded at Montreal on 23 September 1971,[8] the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted in New York on 14 December 1973,[9] the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted in New York on 17 December 1979,[10] the Convention on the

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[6] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 704, No. 10106.

[7] Ibid., vol. 860, No. 12325.

[8] Ibid., vol. 974, No. 14118.

[9] Ibid., vol. 1035, No. 15410.

[10] General Assembly resolution 34/146, annex.

Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, signed at Vienna on 3 March 1980,[11] the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988,[12] the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, done at Rome on 10 March 1988,[13] the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf, done at Rome on 10 March 1988,[14] and the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, done at Montreal on 1 March 1991,[15] and calls upon all States to enact, as appropriate, domestic legislation necessary to implement the provisions of these Conventions and Protocols, to ensure that the jurisdiction of their courts enables them to bring to trial the perpetrators of terrorist acts and to provide support and assistance to other Governments for these purposes;

II

"7. Reaffirms the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, annexed to resolution 49/60;

"8. Approves the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

III

"9. Decides to establish an Ad Hoc Committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings and, subsequently, an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, to supplement related existing international instruments; thereafter to address means of further developing a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism;

"10. Decides also that the Ad Hoc Committee will meet from 24 February to 7 March 1997 to prepare the text of a draft international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings, and recommends that work continue during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly from 22 September

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[11] International Legal Materials, vol. XVIII, p. 1419.

[12] ICAO document DOC 9518, reprinted in ibid., vol. XXVII, p. 627.

[13] Ibid., p. 672.

[14] Ibid., p. 685.

[15] S/22393, annex I; International Legal Materials, vol. XXX, p. 721.

to 3 October 1997 in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work;

"12. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress made towards the elaboration of the draft convention;

"13. Recommends that the Ad Hoc Committee be convened in 1998 to continue its work as referred to in paragraph 9 above;

IV

"14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled 'Measures to eliminate international terrorism'.

"ANNEX

"Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

"The General Assembly,

"Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Recalling the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994,

"Recalling also the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[16]

"Deeply disturbed by the worldwide persistence of acts of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, which endanger or take innocent lives, have a deleterious effect on international relations and may jeopardize the security of States,

"Underlining the importance of States developing extradition agreements or arrangements as necessary in order to ensure that those responsible for terrorist acts are brought to justice,

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[16] Resolution 50/6.

"Noting that the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva on 28 July 1951,[17] does not provide a basis for the protection of perpetrators of terrorist acts, also noting in this context articles 1, 2, 32 and 33 of the Convention, and emphasizing in this regard the need for States parties to ensure the proper application of the Convention,

"Stressing the importance of full compliance by States with their obligations under the provisions of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees,[18] including the principle of non-refoulement of refugees to places where their life or freedom would be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and affirming that the present Declaration does not affect the protection afforded under the terms of the Convention and Protocol and other provisions of international law,

"Recalling article 4 of the Declaration on Territorial Asylum adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2312 (XXII) of 14 December 1967,

"Stressing the need further to strengthen international cooperation between States in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

"Solemnly declares the following:

"1. The States Members of the United Nations solemnly reaffirm their unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed, including those which jeopardize friendly relations among States and peoples and threaten the territorial integrity and security of States;

"2. The States Members of the United Nations reaffirm that acts, methods and practices of terrorism are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations; they declare that knowingly financing, planning and inciting terrorist acts are also contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

"3. The States Members of the United Nations reaffirm that States should take appropriate measures in conformity with the relevant provisions of national and international law and international standards of human rights before granting refugee status, for the purpose of ensuring that the asylum-seeker has not participated in terrorist acts, considering in this regard relevant information as to whether the asylum-seeker is subject to investigation or is charged with or has been convicted of offences connected with terrorism and, after granting refugee status, for the purpose of ensuring that that status is not used for the purpose of preparing or organizing terrorist acts intended to be committed against other States or their citizens;

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[17] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. I-2545.

[18] Ibid., vol. 606, No. I-8791.

"4. The States Members of the United Nations emphasize that asylum-seekers who are awaiting the processing of their asylum applications may not thereby avoid prosecution for terrorist acts;

"5. The States Members of the United Nations reaffirm the importance of ensuring effective cooperation between Member States so that those who have participated in terrorist acts, including their financing, planning or incitement, are brought to justice; they stress their commitment, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and international standards of human rights, to work together to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism and to take all appropriate steps under their domestic laws either to extradite terrorists or to submit their cases to the competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution;

"6. In this context, and while recognizing the sovereign rights of States in extradition matters, States are encouraged, when concluding or implementing extradition agreements, not to regard as political offences excluded from the scope of those agreements offences connected with terrorism which endanger or represent a physical threat to the safety and security of persons, whatever the motives which may be invoked to justify them;

"7. States are also encouraged, even in the absence of a treaty, to consider facilitating the extradition of persons suspected of having committed terrorist acts, insofar as their national laws permit;

"8. The States Members of the United Nations emphasize the importance of taking steps to share expertise and information about terrorists, their movements, their support and their weapons, and to share information regarding the investigation and prosecution of terrorist acts."

6. At the 50th meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Argentina introduced a revised draft resolution proposed by the Chairman of the Committee (A/C.6/51/L.15/Rev.1).

7. The Committee also had before it a statement (A/C.6/51/L.23) of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/51/L.15/Rev.1, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/51/L.15/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 11).

9. The representatives of Costa Rica, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Sudan, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam made statements in explanation of position (see A/C.6/51/SR.50).

10. The representatives of the United States of America and China did not participate in the decision and made statements in explanation of position (see A/C.6/51/SR.50).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

11. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, by which it adopted the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, and its resolution 50/53 of 11 December 1995,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[19]

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Deeply disturbed by the persistence of terrorist acts, which have taken place worldwide,

Stressing the need further to strengthen international cooperation between States and between international organizations and agencies, regional organizations and arrangements and the United Nations in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed,

Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies in combating international terrorism,

Noting in this context all regional and international efforts to combat international terrorism, including those of the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the countries of the group of seven major industrialized countries and the Russian Federation,

Taking note of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on educational activities under the project entitled "Towards a culture of peace",[20]

Recalling that in the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism the General Assembly encouraged States to review urgently the scope of the existing international legal provisions on the prevention, repression and elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with the aim of

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[19] Resolution 50/6.

[20] A/51/395, annex.

ensuring that there was a comprehensive legal framework covering all aspects of the matter,

Bearing in mind the possibility of considering in the future the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism,

Noting that terrorist attacks by means of bombs, explosives or other incendiary or lethal devices have become increasingly widespread, and stressing the need to supplement the existing legal instruments in order to address specifically the problem of terrorist attacks carried out by such means,

Recognizing the need to enhance international cooperation to prevent the use of nuclear materials for terrorist purposes and to develop an appropriate legal instrument,

Recognizing also the need to strengthen international cooperation to prevent the use of chemical and biological materials for terrorist purposes,

Convinced of the need to implement effectively and supplement the provisions of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[21]

I

1. Strongly condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed;

2. Reiterates that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them;

3. Calls upon all States to adopt further measures in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights, to prevent terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism and, to that end, to consider the adoption of measures such as those contained in the official document adopted by the group of seven major industrialized countries and the Russian Federation at the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996[22] and the plan of action adopted by the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism held at Lima from 23 to 26 April 1996 under the auspices of the Organization of American States,[23] and, in particular, calls upon all States:

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[21] A/51/336 and Add.1.

[22] A/51/261, annex.

[23] A/51/336, para. 57.

(a) To recommend that relevant security officials undertake consultations to improve the capability of Governments to prevent, investigate and respond to terrorist attacks on public facilities, in particular means of public transport, and to cooperate with other Governments in this respect;

(b) To accelerate research and development regarding methods of detection of explosives and other harmful substances that can cause death or injury, undertake consultations on the development of standards for marking explosives in order to identify their origin in post-blast investigations, and promote cooperation and transfer of technology, equipment and related materials, where appropriate;

(c) To note the risk of terrorists' using electronic or wire communications systems and networks to carry out criminal acts and the need to find means, consistent with national law, to prevent such criminality and to promote cooperation where appropriate;

(d) To investigate, when sufficient justification exists according to national laws, and acting within their jurisdiction and through appropriate channels of international cooperation, the abuse of organizations, groups or associations, including those with charitable, social or cultural goals, by terrorists using them as a cover for their own activities;

(e) To develop, if necessary, especially by entering into bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements, mutual legal assistance procedures aimed at facilitating and speeding investigations and collecting evidence, as well as cooperation between law enforcement agencies in order to detect and prevent terrorist acts;

(f) To take steps to prevent and counteract, through appropriate domestic measures, the financing of terrorists and terrorist organizations, whether such financing is direct or indirect through organizations which also have or claim to have charitable, social or cultural goals, or which are also engaged in unlawful activities such as illicit arms trafficking, drug dealing and racketeering, including the exploitation of persons for purposes of funding terrorist activities, and in particular to consider, where appropriate, adopting regulatory measures to prevent and counteract movements of funds suspected to be intended for terrorist purposes without impeding in any way the freedom of legitimate capital movements and to intensify the exchange of information concerning international movements of such funds;

4. Also calls upon all States, with the aim of enhancing the efficient implementation of relevant legal instruments, to intensify, as and where appropriate, the exchange of information on facts related to terrorism and, in so doing, to avoid the dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information;

5. Reiterates its call upon States to refrain from financing, encouraging, training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities;

6. Urges all States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts

Committed on Board Aircraft,[24] signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft,[25] signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation,[26] concluded at Montreal on 23 September 1971, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents,[27] adopted in New York on 14 December 1973, the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages,[28] adopted in New York on 17 December 1979, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material,[29] signed at Vienna on 3 March 1980, the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation,[30] signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation,[31] done at Rome on 10 March 1988, the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf,[32] done at Rome on 10 March 1988, and the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection,[33] done at Montreal on 1 March 1991, and calls upon all States to enact, as appropriate, domestic legislation necessary to implement the provisions of those Conventions and Protocols, to ensure that the jurisdiction of their courts enables them to bring to trial the perpetrators of terrorist acts and to provide support and assistance to other Governments for those purposes;

II

7. Reaffirms the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to resolution 49/60;

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[24] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 704, No. 10106.

[25] Ibid., vol. 860, No. 12325.

[26] Ibid., vol. 974, No. 14118.

[27] Ibid., vol. 1035, No. 15410.

[28] Resolution 34/146, annex.

[29] United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 1456, No. 24631.

[30] International Civil Aviation Organization document DOC 9518.

[31] International Maritime Organization, document SUA/CONF/15/Rev.1.

[32] Ibid., document SUA/CONF/15/Rev.1.

[33] S/22393, annex I; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth year, Supplement for January, February and March 1991.

8. Approves the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

III

9. Decides to establish an ad hoc committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings and, subsequently, an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, to supplement related existing international instruments, and thereafter to address means of further developing a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism;

10. Decides also that the Ad Hoc Committee will meet from 24 February to 7 March 1997 to prepare the text of a draft international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings, and recommends that work continue during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly from 22 September to 3 October 1997 in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work;

12. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress made towards the elaboration of the draft convention;

13. Recommends that the Ad Hoc Committee be convened in 1998 to continue its work as referred to in paragraph 9 above;

IV

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

ANNEX

Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[1]

Deeply disturbed by the worldwide persistence of acts of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, which endanger or take innocent lives, have a deleterious effect on international relations and may jeopardize the security of States,

Underlining the importance of States developing extradition agreements or arrangements as necessary in order to ensure that those responsible for terrorist acts are brought to justice,

Noting that the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[34] done at Geneva on 28 July 1951, does not provide a basis for the protection of perpetrators of terrorist acts, also noting in this context articles 1, 2, 32 and 33 of the Convention, and emphasizing in this regard the need for States parties to ensure the proper application of the Convention,

Stressing the importance of full compliance by States with their obligations under the provisions of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol[35] relating to the Status of Refugees, including the principle of non-refoulement of refugees to places where their life or freedom would be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion, and affirming that the present Declaration does not affect the protection afforded under the terms of the Convention and Protocol and other provisions of international law,

Recalling article 4 of the Declaration on Territorial Asylum adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2312 (XXII) of 14 December 1967,

Stressing the need further to strengthen international cooperation between States in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Solemnly declares the following:

1. The States Members of the United Nations solemnly reaffirm their unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed, including those which jeopardize friendly relations among States and peoples and threaten the territorial integrity and security of States;

2. The States Members of the United Nations reaffirm that acts, methods and practices of terrorism are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations; they declare that knowingly financing, planning and inciting terrorist acts are also contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

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[34] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[35] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

3. The States Members of the United Nations reaffirm that States should take appropriate measures in conformity with the relevant provisions of national and international law, including international standards of human rights, before granting refugee status, for the purpose of ensuring that the asylum-seeker has not participated in terrorist acts, considering in this regard relevant information as to whether the asylum-seeker is subject to investigation for or is charged with or has been convicted of offences connected with terrorism and, after granting refugee status, for the purpose of ensuring that that status is not used for the purpose of preparing or organizing terrorist acts intended to be committed against other States or their citizens;

4. The States Members of the United Nations emphasize that asylum-seekers who are awaiting the processing of their asylum applications may not thereby avoid prosecution for terrorist acts;

5. The States Members of the United Nations reaffirm the importance of ensuring effective cooperation between Member States so that those who have participated in terrorist acts, including their financing, planning or incitement, are brought to justice; they stress their commitment, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights, to work together to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism and to take all appropriate steps under their domestic laws either to extradite terrorists or to submit the cases to their competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution;

6. In this context, and while recognizing the sovereign rights of States in extradition matters, States are encouraged, when concluding or applying extradition agreements, not to regard as political offences excluded from the scope of those agreements offences connected with terrorism which endanger or represent a physical threat to the safety and security of persons, whatever the motives which may be invoked to justify them;

7. States are also encouraged, even in the absence of a treaty, to consider facilitating the extradition of persons suspected of having committed terrorist acts, insofar as their national laws permit;

8. The States Members of the United Nations emphasize the importance of taking steps to share expertise and information about terrorists, their movements, their support and their weapons, and to share information regarding the investigation and prosecution of terrorist acts.